

Corporation for National and Community Service

NationalService.gov



AWARD NOTIFICATION: SENIOR CORPS RSVP EXPANSION GRANTS

Background

Throughout the country, Senior Corps engages the skills, talents, and experience of more than 245,000 Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges through a network of three programs — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and RSVP. Through Senior Corps, older adults make a real difference through the lives of individuals and as they help increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations, community agencies, faith-based and tribal organizations throughout the United States. CNCS awards grants to these local organizations and public agencies to administer these programs.

RSVP strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by building the infrastructure needed to efficiently and effectively mobilize experienced and skilled volunteers with vital programs and services. One of the largest volunteer efforts in the country, RSVP engages more than 208,000 older adults, retired or not, who use their skills and life experience in volunteer service that helps solve challenges facing communities. RSVP volunteers serve in diverse volunteer roles that may include: intergenerational education; access to care including opioid abuse/prevention; transportation services that support aging in place; housing services and activities in evidence-based programs. Additionally, they help increase the capacity of local organizations by recruiting and managing other volunteers.

A primary goal for CNCS is to increase the impact and reach of national service in America's communities. In January 2017, Senior Corps opened the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This national competition was an opportunity for communities—with no current RSVP program—to apply for funds and establish new programs that address national priorities. The response was tremendous. Requests for funding outpaced the available funding amount by more than five times resulting in a highly competitive applicant pool. In accordance with the criteria and process established by the NOFO, 50 organizations were selected to be awarded grants. Together, these grants total a funding amount of \$5,370,177 for a total of 7,766 new RSVP volunteers.

Award Information

Recipient:	Graceland University 1 University Place Lamoni, Iowa 50140 - 1641 (641) 784-5046
Program Contact:	Mary V. Long, llong@graceland.edu
Award Amount:	\$119,029 per year/3 years (pending annual appropriations)
Target Geography:	Clark, Decatur, Ringgold, and Union Counties

Program Summary:

Administered by Graceland University, Southern Iowa RSVP will engage 144 volunteers in rural, economically depressed, southern Iowa, a region that covers 1,930 square miles and includes eight school districts in Clarke, Decatur, Ringgold and Union Counties. With an emphasis on literacy and math, the program director, along with eight Community Site Coordinators, will recruit and manage RSVP volunteers who will serve in early childhood centers and school districts to enhance school readiness and K-12 success. Volunteers will read with kids, introduce and build literacy and math skills, help students gain phonological awareness and book knowledge, mentor students, and strengthen the community through their support of family activities and community organizations.